



## Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

### 2017 - 2018 PNWER Executive Committee\*

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April 20, 2018

Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) in support of H.B. 177, which relates to the response to, and control of, aquatic invasive species, the establishment of an aquatic invasive species response fund, and the provision of educational materials and information on aquatic invasive species to persons registering or transporting boats.

PNWER has worked for many years on the issue of invasive species prevention with the goal of sharing best practices and coordinating regional efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species. Specifically, PNWER has been actively involved in combating the spread of aquatic invasive quagga and zebra mussels to the Pacific Northwest region. We know that watercraft inspections are one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of aquatic invaders, and H.B. 177 includes language that will address this issue.

Recognizing the negative economic and environmental impact that invasive species can have on Alaska, we support the creation of an aquatic invasive species response plan and fund, which will proactively address potential infestations.

PNWER has worked extensively on the creation of a regional perimeter approach to inspect boats to prevent the transport of invasive mussels. H.B. 177 compliments these efforts and will allow the state to join other jurisdictions in western Canada and the states in the Pacific Northwest to work together to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Sincerely,

Matt Morrison  
Chief Executive Officer  
PNWER

\*Partial listing